

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Please amend the claims as indicated.

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for verifying an interface address, the apparatus comprising:

a communication module in electrical communication with a network, the communication module configured with an interface address, wherein the interface address is an Ethernet media access controller address and the communication module is an Ethernet network interface card, the communication module further configured to communicate the interface address in response to a query; and

a logic module in electrical communication with the communication module, the logic module configured to query the communication module, and to receive the interface address from the communication module, the logic module further configured to determine whether the interface address is invalid, wherein [[an]]the invalid interface address is selected from an address outside of a specified address range assigned to a manufacturer and an address not of a specified device, and to mitigate an invalid interface address by deactivating the network.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the interface address is determined to be invalid if the interface address is a specified error value.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the interface address is determined to be invalid if the interface address is received after a specified time interval.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) A system for verifying an interface address, the system comprising:

a network;

an interface device in electrical communication with the network, the interface device configured with an interface address, wherein the interface address is an Ethernet media access controller address and the interface device is an Ethernet network interface card, the interface device further configured to receive a query and to communicate the interface address responsive to the query; and

a verification device in electrical communication with the network, the verification device configured to communicate the query to the interface device and to receive the interface address from the interface device, the verification device further configured to determine whether the interface address is invalid,

wherein [[an]]the invalid interface address is selected from an address outside of a specified address range assigned to a manufacturer and an address not of a specified device, and to mitigate the invalid interface address by deactivating the network.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the interface address is determined to be invalid if the interface address is a specified error value.

14. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the interface address is determined to be invalid if the interface address is equivalent to a second interface address.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A program of executable code stored on a storage device and executed by a processor computer readable storage medium comprising computer readable code for verifying an interface address, the computer readable code configured to:

query an interface address of an interface device in communication with a network, wherein the interface address is an Ethernet media access controller address of an Ethernet network interface card;

receive the interface address;

determine whether [[an]]the interface address is invalid, wherein [[an]]the

invalid interface address is selected from an address outside of a specified address range assigned to a manufacturer and an address not of a specified device; and mitigate the invalid interface address by deactivating the network.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) The program computer readable storage medium of claim 16, wherein the program computer readable code is configured to determines that the interface address is invalid if the interface address is equivalent to a second interface address.

22. (Currently Amended) The program computer readable storage medium of claim 16, wherein the program computer readable code is configured to determines that the interface address is invalid if the interface address is a specified error value.

23. (Currently Amended) The program computer readable storage medium of claim 16, wherein the program computer readable code is configured to determines that the interface address is invalid if the interface address is received subsequent to a specified time interval.

24. (Currently Amended) A method for verifying an interface address, the method comprising:

querying an interface address of an interface device in communication with a network, wherein the interface address is an Ethernet media access controller address of an Ethernet network interface card;

receiving the interface address;

determining that [[an]]the interface address is invalid, wherein [[an]]the invalid interface address is selected from an address outside of a specified address range assigned to a manufacturer and an address not of a specified device; and

mitigating the invalid interface address by deactivating the network.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the interface address is determined to be invalid if the interface address is a specified error value.

29. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the interface address is determined to be invalid if the interface address is equivalent to a second interface address.

30. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for verifying an interface address, the apparatus comprising:

means for querying an interface address of an interface device in communication with a network, wherein the interface address is an Ethernet media access controller address of an Ethernet network interface card;

means for receiving the interface address;

means for determining that [[an]]the interface address is invalid, wherein [[an]]the invalid interface address is selected from an address outside of a specified address range assigned to a manufacturer and an address not of a specified device; and

means for mitigating the invalid interface address by deactivating the network.